

# CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

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## BULLETIN

OCTOBER, 1942

### Some Efforts to Meet a Critical Period in Child Placing

By JACOB KEPECS and ALBERT E. DEEMER

Jewish Children's Bureau of Chicago

CHILD placing organizations by and large are finding it increasingly difficult to secure foster homes. Our own experience and reports and inquiries from both public and private agencies from many parts of the country indicate a general and rather sharp decline in foster home applications and a growing list of children accepted for care who are waiting to be placed. This is a serious matter for the children affected. They either must continue to live under intolerable conditions in their own homes—assuming that their removal has been decided upon for compelling reasons—or are being held in detention homes or in other temporary makeshift shelters. For the referral agencies, such as the juvenile court, the family agency, the guidance clinic, etc., an undue delay in placement constitutes a bottle-neck and interferes with their work. Our concern here is mainly if not exclusively with children whose kinship ties are to be maintained, *i. e.*, children who are to be placed in foster families at board. Unattached children, particularly white children in urban communities, can be placed with relative ease in adoptive, free or paid foster homes. With the progress of the war this situation too may become more difficult. Right now agencies are hard pressed for foster homes for children whose parents are around the corner, especially very young children, children whose habits are markedly irregular and those who have suffered extensive damage to body, mind, character, or personality.

Of course, the scarcity of foster homes is not a war-time phenomenon. Child placing agencies by and large have never enjoyed a comfortable margin of foster homes. They have hardly ever had a sufficient supply of usable foster homes to enable them to function without pressure and anxiety, and this unsatisfactory condition which prevailed in normal times has naturally become aggravated during a period of stress and strain. A chronic state has become acute. Child placing in peace or war must remain on an insecure basis as long as the problem of home finding remains unsolved. Until then it will be necessary

for us to continue with hit and miss methods that work poorly and resort to new improvised devices and measures.

The purpose of this article is to describe special efforts recently undertaken by the Jewish Children's Bureau of Chicago to secure foster homes in the belief that it may contain helpful suggestions to others. We hope too that it may encourage others to publish their efforts in home finding for the mutual benefit of the whole child placing field. Our effort consisted of the following steps taken in consecutive order: (1) General appeals to the Jewish community over the radio and through wide and consistent commercial advertising in the metropolitan and neighborhood press; (2) appeals to selected groups and individuals in a concentrated area which we considered virgin territory; (3) the employment of a foster home solicitor to contact and encourage individuals to make application for foster children; (4) a "campaign" in which a picked but representative group of foster mothers, the entire staff and several Board members participated.

#### *General Appeal*

The agency advertised continuously during the first part of this year in various neighborhood newspapers and in the metropolitan press. However, most of the agency's ads were placed in a shopping news service which has a large free metropolitan circulation and which in the past brought good results. In addition, numerous advertisements were placed in the Anglo-Jewish weekly magazines. The ads varied from two to six lines and their wording was changed frequently. Some of the ads were for specific children, such as infants or adolescent boys, but most of them did not specify types of children for whom homes were being sought. We did not find any relation between the size and kind of ad and the number of applications received. Sometimes a simple two-line ad brought better results than a larger, more descriptive one.

During the same period the agency sponsored three radio programs, one a fifteen-minute dramatic program sponsored in cooperation with the Council of Social Agencies. This program, which was presented over a major station, was called the "Story of Constance Worth" and gave a weekly presentation of the work of some social agency with the personal life of Constance Worth, the social worker, providing the continuity. The two other radio programs were presented over a local station on a Jewish radio hour. One program consisted of a ten-minute interview with the president of the agency and the other consisted of a ten-minute interview with two foster mothers.

#### *Appeals to Selected Groups*

During the early part of the year the agency undertook a home finding project in a limited city area which the agency wished to develop. We had only two foster families in use in this area but believed that it had possibilities for many more. Two supervisors made a preliminary survey of this section of the city; they obtained a list of more than one hundred Jewish organizations in the community and selected a small number as a sample for contact. They addressed letters to the officers of these groups explaining the agency's project and made appointments to see several of them. The names of other key persons in the community were obtained and some of them were interviewed. They also visited community centers, several temples and synagogues and obtained further leads for group contact. An outside professional person familiar with the agency was then engaged full time for the period of one month to complete this project. This worker focused her attention primarily on the more important women's groups which were organized for communal and philanthropic purposes and arranged for talks before them. Six such groups were addressed by members of the agency's Board. Pamphlets were widely distributed explaining the agency's work and its need for foster homes. News items in connection with the above activities were inserted in temple and synagogue bulletins and several stores and shops were visited and pamphlets were left for distribution to customers.

#### *Foster Home Solicitor*

In May and June the agency engaged for the first time a non-professional person with experience in the insurance and business fields to assist in home finding. The purpose of this project was to contact selected individuals and solicit their applications for foster children. The solicitor covered different sec-

tions of the city. Through various sources she obtained leads of individuals and groups and followed these up. In a period of two months she reached approximately 650 persons through talks before groups and 200 more women through individual interviews. She distributed more than 1000 pieces of literature pertaining to the functions of the agency and its need for foster homes. Her talks before the groups were informal. She states in her report:

"My object at the meetings was to fraternize as much as possible with the women before and after the formal meeting and to talk to them individually or in small groups about the agency and its problems in connection with foster homes. The short talk which was given to the assembled group was secondary."

The solicitor attempted to get specific names of persons at these meetings upon whom she could call.

#### *The "Campaign"*

The agency publishes a two-page monthly newsletter to foster parents which is mailed monthly to each foster family. The primary purpose of the newsletter is to acquaint the foster parents from month to month with the agency's needs for foster homes and to stimulate them to refer prospective foster families to us. Since our home finding difficulties increased we decided to arouse the sympathies of the foster parents by describing some of the children greatly in need of placement. We gave recognition to foster parents who were active in recruiting and passed on some of the U. S. Children's Bureau advice to parents in wartime. We stressed particularly the importance of caring for dependent children as part of the war effort. Foster parents were further stimulated and encouraged to help us find foster homes at the various meetings of the foster parents' clubs and the case workers were urged to obtain prospects from foster parents during their regular home visits.

The combined results of the above efforts fell short of our needs and we thereupon instituted the following intensive two weeks' drive for foster homes. We invited seventy odd of our foster mothers who we knew had the time and the interest to participate in the drive. With few exceptions all invitations were accepted. The foster mothers were divided into eleven teams on a geographic basis. Each team was headed by a captain and co-captain—foster mothers—and a staff member was assigned to each team to act as an adviser. The campaign was formally opened with a luncheon for all members of the team, seventy foster mothers in all, the entire staff of the agency and several Board members. The foster parents were seated according to their teams and their respective staff adviser sat with them. At this luncheon the purpose of the campaign was outlined and short in-

spirational talks were given by Board members, staff members and the president of the foster parents' club. The presence of a photographer added to the interest and prestige of the occasion and several pictures showing foster members and Board members appeared with a description of the campaign in all the leading Jewish newspapers and magazines. We emphasized that a family, by opening its home to a homeless child, was aiding the war effort on the home front; that it was a patriotic duty to care for a dependent child and that foster families doing so were participating actively in the civilian defense program. They were impressed with the fact that the whole organization, including foster parents and social workers, was part of the Office of Civilian Defense and that we were expected to take care of Jewish children as our share of national defense.

Immediately after the formal program was over each team with its staff adviser got down to business to work out the details of its activities. The plan contemplated that each foster mother participating in the drive would call on her friends, relatives, and neighbors in an attempt to interest them in applying for foster children. Campaign kits which had been prepared beforehand were distributed to each foster mother. Each kit contained printed instructions, application cards and information leaflets pertaining to foster home care. During the two weeks' drive each team had several meetings to report on the progress made; the staff adviser was present to discuss problems that came up and to answer questions which were raised. These meetings fostered a spirit of friendly rivalry among the teams to bring in as many applications as possible. The campaign closed on schedule with a luncheon meeting for the captains, advisers, and Board members. Each captain was called upon to report on the activities and results of her team, which was done amidst considerable enthusiasm. That over, the captains decided to organize themselves into a permanent body for the express purpose of helping the organization with its home finding efforts.

### Results

In order to gauge the nature, the extent and urgency of the situation which prompted us to undertake the various home finding efforts, and to judge the results therefrom, it is necessary to have a perspective of the agency's general position and the following factors may be helpful in that connection: Our organization functions in a large urban community, is sectarian in its work and has been engaged in child placing for the past thirty-five years. We do

not have a separate home finding department. All child placing workers are required to give time to recruiting; they are responsible for their own replacements and for the placement of new children assigned to their respective districts. They are assigned foster home applications from their districts for study and in consultation with their supervisor they make the final disposition. We have one professional worker with supervisory rank through whom all foster home applications are cleared and sifted; she gives the first interview and makes a preliminary evaluation; she keeps track of assignments for study to the point of disposition. She attends to the licensing and relicensing of homes by the state. She is responsible for all foster home files and statistics. In addition, one member of the staff gives part time to public relations, to recruiting and to foster parent education.

The organization has in current use approximately four hundred foster families, and when the volume of work was at a peak four years ago there were around five hundred foster homes in use. The decline is chiefly due to a rather sharp decrease of working age boys and girls under care who are now able to support themselves and to a lesser extent to a gradual drop in intake. The agency needs twelve to fifteen new foster homes per month to meet its intake and replacement requirements. About two years ago this need was met through a normal flow of applications activated periodically by advertising in the press and over the radio, by appeals to women's organizations and by special stimulation of foster parents. We received, on the average, between eighty and ninety foster home applications per month which enabled us to eke out a hand-to-mouth existence. During the first nine months of 1941 the average number of applications declined by about one-third and dropped to the lowest point in October, November, and December, with a total of one hundred and eleven applications for the three months or an average of thirty-seven plus per month. The number of homes accepted for general use average less than twenty per hundred applications from all sources combined. In January of this year we accepted only six foster homes. At the same time the list of children waiting to be placed or replaced was growing and numbered fifty at the end of May.

As a result of our various recruiting efforts since the beginning of this year a steady improvement of the situation took place. By the end of August our placement list was again within manageable, normal proportions.

It needs to be noted here that the lapse of time between the date of application and final acceptance



of a foster home is between six and nine weeks. That length of time is required for clearings, first interview, study, recording, evaluation, and licensing. With this information about our agency as a background and with the aid of the following table the reader should be in a position to compare and evaluate the results of the various recruiting methods described above.

FOSTER HOME RECRUITING AND RESULTS IN 1942 BY JEWISH CHILDREN'S BUREAU OF CHICAGO

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
First and Second Steps.....	X	X	X	..	..	..	..	..
Third Step.....	..	..	..	X	X	..	..	..
Fourth Step.....	..	..	..	..	..	X	..	..
Applications.....	49	43	52	47	43	56	75	47
Homes Accepted.....	6	8	9	10	11	15	14	25
*Accepted for limited use only	4	5	6	10	5	3	7	9

\* For limited use are foster homes which may be utilized for occasional children, working boys and girls, parent and child, or a particular child, such as a six or seven year old attractive girl whose parents are not in the picture, but who is not for adoption.

The fruits of our first two appeals show up in March, April, and May and they are rather meager. June and July reflect the work of the foster home solicitor and the results are encouraging; while the yield from the campaign during the latter part of June appears in August and is quite gratifying. It must be obvious that our efforts became more and more effective as we shifted our appeal from the general, unknown audience to specific, intimate groups and individuals. The foster home solicitor was a new venture in home finding; it was the first time that our organization employed a solicitor to operate along commercial principles. And although the showing was only modest we are inclined to feel encouraged that with more experience and refinement of technique this method should prove a valuable addition to our repertory of foster home recruiting efforts. Furthermore, it may tend to introduce a note of business realism in foster home recruiting such as we badly need and have not had. It is likely to lead us to more natural and hence to more fertile sources in the community than we have heretofore tapped. Advertising in the press, general radio appeals and addressing women's groups and clubs have not brought us nearer such sources. We do not seem to be reaching the right people by these methods, certainly not enough of them.

The fourth step, the campaign, may appear on the surface as an old and well-tried formula with a new emphasis. Superficially it is that, but only superficially. The source is, of course, the same. But the approach, the motives, and the incentives are funda-

mentally different. The time-honored way of recruiting foster homes through foster parents depends upon individual relationships which exist between workers and foster mothers, upon established rapport and upon a favorable situation at a given time. If the relationship is well established and smooth running, and if the mood is favorable and the time auspicious, the results are likely to be quite good. In normal

times this is the best and relatively most dependable source of a steady supply of foster homes. In times like the present, when people are distracted and when there is an abnormal turnover in staff, this method tends to break down. Some of the more experienced workers expressed skepticism of the campaign when it was first proposed; they felt that foster mothers had been milked dry as a source of referral, and on the basis of the old approach they were right. Individual solicitation of foster mothers has certain limitations and drawbacks under any conditions. It requires a certain amount of catering to the foster mother by the worker which may interfere with effective supervision. The best laid plan of the worker to approach a foster mother with a recruiting proposition may be upset if during the visit the foster mother raises issues, such as the board rate, adjustment of the child, parental interference, etc. New workers in particular are at a great disadvantage when it comes to individual solicitation of foster mothers. It takes time to take over a case load and to establish satisfactory relationships with foster parents, and recruiting has to be deferred as a rule until that is accomplished. Our campaign did not depend upon the personalized and subjective elements involved in individual solicitation. It did not depend upon an established working relationship between worker and foster mother. It was lifted to a loftier level than that of personal friendship and loyalty. The incentive of the campaign was active participation in the agency program and the motive

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## Supervision of Foster Homes

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NINETEEN hundred and forty-two and the advent of war brings new difficulties to home finding in addition to the customary problems in getting, selecting and using foster homes. It has created a gigantic social upheaval which threatens to abolish in a moment standards we have built up over a long period of years. With the growing shortage of foster homes and with, at the same time, the swelling demand by parents in defense areas for placement of their children, what shall be our policy? Shall we lower our essential qualifications for new foster homes in order to speed their acceptance? Shall we overwork the old ones? Shall we dilute the process of supervision leaving the foster parent "holding the bag"? Shall we leave the foster child to his own devices? Is it true that we have really reached the saturation point of foster home applications? These are some of the questions confronting child placing agencies today.

As a result of the war, abrupt changes are taking place in all families. Fathers and foster fathers are leaving for military service. Mothers with reduced incomes are seeking work. Many children are going without proper care. These are real war-made problems. In addition, there are problems of long standing, where husbands and wives use the war situation as an opportunity to carry out old wishes. Certain parents who have hung together for reasons of convention now have a self-justification for placing their children. Mothers who have heretofore only played with the idea of working are able to take jobs with equanimity and a clear conscience. The growing demand for women in war industries puts a premium on separation from their children. Furthermore, the easy opportunity to make higher wages in defense factories is irresistible to many parents. The economic opportunities of war bring a strong urge to make quick money, not unlike the characteristics of a gold rush. This situation is even more urgent because it comes on the heels of a depriving depression. Furthermore, good women who, in ordinary times, might well be interested in boarding children now submerge this interest, at least temporarily, in the form of renting rooms to the defense worker who can pay them more. They likewise have the timely opportunity to "get-rich-quick." Child placing agencies are thus faced with fewer resources in terms of

foster homes and at the same time a correspondingly greater need for them.

One of the dilemmas of defense is whether it is better to take children into foster care and let their mothers produce arms for the nation or to try to keep children at home with a corresponding loss of industrial manpower. The trend in defense areas points to greater employment of women and consequently an increase in family dislocation for children. The British experience with evacuation showed that it was not primarily the bombings which created neurotic disturbances in children so much as the less dramatic but more upsetting disruption of daily routine, the breaking of family relationships, the readjustments growing out of this and the additional suffering caused by too little preparation for change. It is of the utmost importance in wartime to hold fast to the now tried conviction that children, especially pre-school children, be kept with their mothers and that, where mothers must work, forms of care less complete in their separation be developed, such as foster day care, the day nursery and after-school programs.

The coming of war, of course, does not stop the need for child placing agencies, with their facilities for longer time boarding and adoption. It does not do away with death, illegitimacy, separation of parents or neurotic personality. Mothers who reject their children still reject them in wartime, but in addition they now have an acceptable reason for leaving them. These mothers are incapable of recognizing the truth of the fact that staying at home with their children is good defense.

The need for boarding homes has always been greater than the supply. Now, with the shrinkage in customary applications, comes the query as to whether we can let go usual standards of home finding and in so doing replenish the lack with homes slightly below par. The answer to this would seem to lie in what we mean by standards. Certain usual qualifications, those involving external factors of a physical character and even those where the family makeup is not considered strictly orthodox, might be foregone if other more basic qualifications are there. A little dust and dirt never brought unhappiness to a child as long as he felt welcome and wanted. Correct English or a parlor suite have little to do with character.

Many worth-while people have shared a bed with a brother or sister or a foster brother or a foster sister. Illustrious citizens have grown up in the home of an aunt, a grandmother, a widow, or even a single woman if she is a mature person. Many children in their own homes are now temporarily deprived of their fathers. These are the kinds of deficiencies that can be accepted without too great damage. They are in contrast to limitations of character, of loving and of average comfortable family relationships, without which foster homes are only foster houses. It is, furthermore, not inconceivable to accept applications of foster parents whose financial motivation may be strong. If the other essentials are there, wherein lies the danger? The person with a healthy financial motive is likely to be one who is not striving to have a child meet his own too personal needs to the same degree as the lonely or too sentimental applicant. Likewise in certain instances mothers of children who have heretofore kept the home together, who are attached to their children, and who are now rushing into war industries will neither need nor want a foster home in which their children become too emotionally rooted. The financial motive on the part of a foster mother is, of course, no guarantee that she will not love the child placed with her any more than it is an assurance that the child placed by the mother for so-called "war" or "defense" reasons does not need love, care and protection. However, the foster mother with a strong financial incentive may be one whose major emotional needs have already been met. The child who goes to her home might then be selected as one for whom placement does not have an irrevocable and final character, but where going to live for a while with Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Jones is part of what happens when war comes and mother works for defense. In other words, where long and fundamental rejection by his parents is not the case, the child, particularly the older child, can blame the war environment, not himself, for what happens to mother and to him and thereby feels less disturbed. This, however, cannot be taken as a wholesale truth because in the best of situations children will blame themselves for being placed. Children, too little to understand, will always feel rejected no matter what the reason is for placement.

With the prevailing high cost of living, all boarding parents must now consider even more the fact of payment. Many agencies are recognizing this and consequently have raised their rates of board, both as a measure which conserves the homes already in use and which, in addition, makes more possible the getting of new applications.

The idea of deliberately using less qualified foster homes as a sacrificial way out of the present scarcity seems a false investment to children, if by this we mean the using of foster parents whose personalities, relationships and life are essentially unhealthy. We have always had a relative scale of values in home finding, but within this we have seen the common sense of keeping to a selection of normal people, whether rich or poor, educated or uneducated, young or old. What it means when we say that perhaps we are going to have to use more "limited" homes for the duration is to say we are going to have to use the homes we already have plus more homes just like them. After all, what foster home does not have limitations? Furthermore, the idea frequently heard in wartime, that we can make up for limitations by "developing" the foster parent to a greater degree, is doubtful. Case workers in child placing agencies are not less busy in a period of war, but actually are more pressed for time. Likewise, the idea of turning foster parents into "professional" people would seem neither desirable nor real. This is not to deny that foster parents grow and learn from experience, nor that we cannot use them in such a way as to make them more or less comfortable in what they have to give. It does concede that it is safer and sounder to select foster parents for what they now are able to bestow (their capacity for mothering, their interest in children, the benefit of their family life, their ability to share) rather than for a vague hope of what we may turn them into. In the last analysis what we want are people chosen for their good, natural, inherent capacities; for the kind of people they already are and have become. Of course, it is true that foster parents change in the sense that they are affected by the child placed in their home. The impact of him necessarily creates certain reverberations in their feelings and in their living. They are further influenced by the worker who visits them and who frequently has ideas different from their own. It is for this reason that knowing beforehand something of their capacity for flexibility is important and why understanding the likelihood of their growth (rather than of fundamental change) has significance in relation to the satisfactions of their own life and for the child's adjustment. Their developing during the home finding study an understanding of supervision as a worker who comes to help them is important and later becomes the necessary base on which supervision after placement is built. Misconceptions of supervision by so many foster parents where refugee children have been taken without benefit of an agency testify to this.



It has also been said that the use of sub-standard foster homes in wartime can be balanced against the worker's skill in supervision. In other words, that it is safe to use such homes in direct proportion to the amount of skill a worker has. This puts an unreasonable and impossible demand on workers if "sub-standard" includes foster parents with neurotic personalities, intelligence too low, or deeply entrenched hostilities. Even the best supervision is no compensation or substitute for such limitations. To place a child in such a home and to help him "bear it" is to ask him to be an adult, not a child. After all, supervision, as a process, is to help him as much as the foster parent. A policy of taking sub-standard homes not only short-circuits the child but necessitates for the worker an even more time-consuming experience. One cannot supervise a "sub-standard" home. He can only "police" it.

The pressures and tensions of the war as well as the scarcity of foster homes bring a new need to conserve and safeguard those homes we already have. Now that all the familiar and common problems of foster parents, own parents and children are sharpened, the worker is called upon to stretch her relationship over new as well as old difficulties. Wartime supervision, in addition to helping with usual needs in foster homes, should offer the foster mother opportunity for discussing the war-related questions of children plus her own fears and dreads. In these times she needs to receive the reassurance of the worker's own self-assurance. The very continuity of the worker's visiting, the foster mother's regular trips to the office, are still for her evidences of something she can count on. Regular correspondence in country districts when roads are impassable can mean much. In times of crisis most foster mothers do not like to be left adrift, and correspondingly it is just at this period that the worker's own increased pressures tend to spread her contacts even more thin. She may get buried under activities at a time when the foster mother needs her most. This situation, for the reason given, warrants a greater consideration of group meetings for foster parents where it is necessary for workers to decrease their individual contacts.

The present scarcity of foster homes, especially boarding homes, has led to the old temptation of overworking and overcrowding those now in use; that is, placing one more child when this is likely to upset the good balance and psychology prevailing for the foster mother and the children already there. This is more often than not a temporary compromise which does not work. Having more children to place (not including those available for adoption) than

foster homes to receive them, challenges our capacity to develop new resources for getting them and in new ways. Certain agencies are now experimenting with large-scale newspaper publicity which interprets to the public the great need of foster homes for children in wartime, and where this service is linked with defense which, of course, it is. Foster mothers already in use are being enlisted to help bring in more foster mothers. It seems clear that old ways of stimulating applications are not enough and that the amount of time and manpower previously spent on this aspect of the job is now insufficient. It is difficult to estimate whether we have reached the so-called saturation point of foster home applications until we have given more and better publicity to it than has been characteristic in the past. Objective publicity which appeals to the real interests of prospective foster parents and reaches a selective group usually has more productive results than broadside advertising that stirs up the guilt and sentimentality of the reader. One of the objectives of publicity is not to enlist wholesale the interest of people who should never be encouraged to apply. When this happens, wholesale rejections are bound to take place and "Rejections are the most negative kind of publicity and can do more harm than reams of good publicity can overcome."\* To believe at this time that we have reached a maximum quota of foster homes would seem unjustifiable until we are convinced that all altruism and all interest in children are dead.

The war has brought to the front the foster parent of the refugee child and quick placements on a larger scale unprecedented in recent years. The tremendous and immediate response of people all over the country to the plight of refugee children attests the goodwill and the great interest of a public in helping them. At the same time many difficulties arose, difficulties that always characterize placements made in a hurry and with too little knowledge of the child and of the foster parents. A large number of these foster parents made arrangements to take refugee children directly from the own parents and found themselves later disillusioned when the children and the experience proved too much for them or too different from what they had expected. To many of these people, unprepared and caught by a good impulse to be part of the war effort, the responsibilities and realities of child-care, bereft of their original glamour, became unbearable. The war excitement, the overt desire to serve, acted as screens to hide from them the new

\* "Publicity for Foster Home Finding," by Bernard A. Roloff, Director, Department of Public Information, United War Fund, Pittsburgh, Pa.

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## BULLETIN

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Henrietta L. Gordon, *Editor*

The Bulletin is in large measure a Forum for discussion in print of child welfare problems. Endorsement does not necessarily go with the printing of opinions expressed over a signature.

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### The League and Day Care

THE program of the National Association of Day Nurseries is being absorbed by the Child Welfare League. The Association plans to dissolve its corporation before the end of 1942. This fact and a few details were released to our members, affiliates and associates in Defense Brief No. 12, dated October 9.

A joint committee of the League and the Association has been entrusted by the governing boards of both agencies with the planning of policies and the transferring of activities. This committee consists of the following—Representing the League: Mrs. H. Rene Ruegg, Chairman, Herschel Alt, Frank R. Pentlarge and Miss Grace Reeder. Representing the Association: Mrs. J. Horton Ijams, President of the National Association of Day Nurseries, Mrs. Thomas J. Blake, Mrs. Ary J. Lamme, Jr., and Mrs. George W. Perkins. Its first meeting was held October 5, and a second meeting will be held October 14.

The proposal for this transference of activities was made by the Association to the League in August. The League's Board on September 26 agreed to the proposal and approved expansion of program in the field of day care as funds for this purpose are obtained.

The executive director of the League has been appointed director of program for the administration of the affairs of the National Association of Day Nurseries during the interim. The Association will retain a reduced staff during this period.

It may be emphasized that the League has been actively interested in day care for several years. The new steps to be taken as funds permit will represent

an expansion of services rather than the assumption of functions unrelated to the League's traditional program.

—HOWARD W. HOPKIRK

### The Tire and Gas Shortage

THE League has received reports from all parts of the country telling of the need for tires in the performance of the most necessary tasks pertaining to the foster care and protection of children. Other reports have shown the need for more gasoline than is permitted social agencies by rationing boards. The more common and acute need is for tires.

Repeatedly the League has forwarded such reports to the proper officials in Washington. On two occasions the League has joined other national agencies in submitting concerted appeals for the tires and gas necessary for sustaining the social work needed in wartime. It has been especially helpful to have reports from some of our members showing economies in travel, economies in promotion of the war effort and often in the interests of better agency administration.

There have been two recent visits to Washington in which the League's executive director worked on this subject. On October 7 he was informed that the needs of private as well as public social agencies are now receiving careful and official consideration.

### How Does the Client Find the Social Worker?

MANY agencies are hesitant about seeking or even permitting publicity through channels that reach the general public because of fear that the services will be "taken advantage of" by people who could have managed without them, or the danger that some readers will misunderstand what the program of the agency is, and will read into the account services that they want, thus bringing on the agency a considerable burden in interviewing and letter writing.

Those who need the services of social agencies go to them on the advice of schools, courts and other institutions, and the neighbors play a large part in referral, but in all the changes of the present time—with families, or young men or girls alone, moving to



new places to work in the war effort—many are not acquainted with their communities and do not have these means of learning about resources.

People need to know about places to live and where to find recreation. The young mother taking a job in industry while her husband is in the armed forces wants advice about the care of her child. These are easily expressed requests for advice but accompanying them, in many instances, are the bewilderment, fears and anxieties of wartime which are often brought out in the interview with the social worker.

Social agencies have facilities and skills to help in meeting all these problems, but many of the people needing counsel have not been accustomed to turning to them. Publicity has been planned to reach the giving public, and we all make statements for the information of other agencies, but we have been loath to circulate facts about our programs among those who may be our clients.

Posters in railroad stations and factories might tell where information is available about housing, recreation, nutrition, play schools or day nurseries. Moving pictures about agency services have been few and generally limited to private showings, but many of the readjustments of today are sufficiently dramatic to make interesting "shorts" for commercial circuits. The preparations that have been made for the care of children in case of emergencies would make pictures that would be both interesting and informative.

The popular newspapers and magazines are a medium that have not been widely used. Last May *Good Housekeeping* published an article about the Church Mission of Help of New York, and included mention of the other CMH Societies and the national organization. The article featured the services to unmarried mothers, but mentioned the interest of the organization in all problems of youth. Letters came immediately from all over the country. Nearly six hundred people, in forty different states, wrote. Almost three hundred of the correspondents are girls wanting advice and help in their own problems. They include two hundred unmarried mothers or expectant mothers. A few journeyed to the nearest CMH Society, sometimes a couple of hundred miles away, wanting advice and help and a place to stay. More sent letters. Some are now clients of CMH, but the great majority have been referred to other agencies. With the cooperation of the Child Welfare League of America, the Family Welfare Association, and the Directors of State Departments of Welfare appropriate agencies were found, and in every instance letters accepting the cases have been received. Only four

girls are reported to have been already in touch with a social agency.

Besides the girls who wrote about their own problems, over a hundred and fifty people expressed interest in promoting organizations in their own communities. Some had in mind services for the unmarried mother; some want to help girls and spoke of the girls in war camp areas; still others want to work for both girls and boys. Several writers were put in touch with agencies already existing, and in other places it is to be hoped that some useful work may materialize out of their interest.

Many of the objections to widespread and popular publicity can be supported by a study of the response to the article we have discussed. People misunderstood some details about the program of the agency. The title selected by the magazine was calculated to get attention. It is: "My Parents Mustn't Know." Hope of secrecy was important in the minds of many who wrote, and any discussion of telling the parents was in some cases a great disappointment. It was possible, however, for the case worker to give help in facing this problem along with others. Several failed to grasp the idea of case work service and made inquiries about the organization of Youth Centers. It was possible to advise them about other sources of information. Then there were those who saw an opportunity for private gain and offered houses for sale; but the number is small, only seven. That many of the applications should have been made to other agencies is obvious from the number of referrals, but the clients had not found the agencies. They naturally had such a desire for secrecy that they could not make inquiries that might have led them to sources of help.

The service given, involving interviews, telephone conversations, and correspondence was time-consuming and expensive, but it resulted in putting nearly three hundred girls in touch with organizations that can help them in meeting their immediate and urgent problems, and also provided information to another three hundred people who expressed interest. These latter are giving thought to the problems of youth in wartime, and this interest can be more vitally felt in our communities if the social agencies and the public can come closer together in their thinking.

When human beings are as troubled as they are today, social work has a more compelling reason to use every available channel to make known to the public where it can go for help.

—EDITH F. BALMFORD

*Executive Secretary, Church Mission of Help, New York City*

## THE BOARD MEMBER SPEAKS—

## JOINT AND SEPARATE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND STAFF

THE governing board of any modern social service agency surrenders its "direct-ministration" functions to a large degree when a professional staff is engaged to serve its clients. And this is as it should be. There is implicit in the tasks assigned to the trained social worker the assumption that the worker's education, experience and special training in the particular field in which she may function entitle that social worker or the professional consultative group of which she may be a part, to be the arbiter of what shall be or shall not be the help given to or disposition made of any given case. These may appear to be trite and self-evident observations, but they obviously need restatement.

Social work as a profession has evolved a growing body of professional criteria and standards so vigorously and so rapidly that some boards and board members are prone to look upon the "profession" as a "Frankenstein" obtruding upon their autonomy. This lay reaction is in part ascribable to the inability of boards to assimilate the "new thought" as rapidly as impatient and sometimes over-eager social workers would like, but, by and large, it is due to a lack of clarification or definition of the several areas of activity and responsibility that properly belong to the trustee and to the professional. Social workers must not indiscriminately harbor the notion that whatever differences in attitude or viewpoint exist are attributable either to a "die-hard" conservatism or sheer obstinacy on the part of board members, for it cannot be denied that the progress made by the profession of social service has to a considerable degree been made possible by the wide acceptance it has enjoyed at the hands of the usually progressive and enlightened trustees who unselfishly give of their time and energy on agency boards. Thus, it is to be regretted that all too frequently there is a hiatus between professional and lay concepts and that the resulting strains and stresses take on the aspect of "jurisdictional fights." No one, in this day and age, questions the "omniscience" of the physician or the technical expert in the important decisions that these practitioners, or "specialists" in other fields, are

called upon to make. Likewise, the social worker, dealing with delicate human problems involving deep-rooted psychological factors, family and social relationships, neuroses that may superficially appear to be of an individualized character but which invariably must be examined in the light of community and social implications and backgrounds must be granted the "specialist's" prerogatives.

The governing board that has rid itself of the self-satisfying need for the symbols of direct charity and personal ministration to its clients by well-intentioned laymen; the board that has the vision to see that the complexities of modern life and the vicissitudes of a free and highly competitive society call for the training and specialized education of men and women in the techniques of communal social service, that boards of trustees will hardly deny to the social worker the modicum of confidence that is so commonly extended to specialists in other fields of human activity.

Such recognition, granted by the board in the interests of the community it serves, as a voluntary act of delimitation, by no means constricts the importance of its role nor does it reduce the measure of its responsibility. It is still within the province of the board to guard the standards and policies of the agency it represents; to maintain and broaden the services and opportunities it offers; to zealously promote the efficiency and professional status of the workers it employs; to maintain good "public relations" with the community at large; to safeguard and bolster, when necessary, the economic status of its clients in order that the efforts of the professional staff may have the best chance of fruition; to obtain from the professional workers as broad an aspect as possible of the pertinent problems those workers are dealing with; to inspire the professional staff; to interpret the work of the staff to the community; and to correlate the responsibilities and duties of the staff and of the board.

Such a program and such a policy are the impelling results of a realistic conception of the relationship between professional staffs and trustees and cannot fail to create a synthesis that redounds to the benefit of client, worker, agency and community.

—NATHAN M. KATZ

*Board Member, Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of Pittsburgh*

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD

### Counseling Service in a Day-Care Program

The September issue of *The Child* carries an article on Counseling Service in a Day-Care Program by Emma O. Lundberg. The subject is of such wide-spread interest and importance that, on request, we are making a reprint available to our member agencies. All our readers, however, will be interested in the summarized statement of the points that appear to be of special importance in establishing such service. They are as follows:

1. Counseling service on a community-wide basis should be set up as a distinct function of the community day-care program. It should be easily accessible to all in need of such service and acceptable to them.
2. Counseling service should be related to the work of child-welfare and family agencies, both public and private, and might well be developed as a part of a public child-welfare program. However, it should be identified with the community day-care program.
3. There should be a close relationship between the public employment service and the counseling service.
4. The hours during which counseling is offered must be such that working mothers can avail themselves of the service without losing time from their work. It may be necessary to provide for Sunday hours as well as evening hours.
5. The services must be made known to those who may wish to use them. This may be done through newspaper publicity describing the purpose of the community day-care program and giving information regarding the availability of information and advice, through posters placed in employment offices, industrial establishments, and other strategic points, and through information distributed through labor unions and other organizations.
6. The staff who provide counseling on day-care should be experienced in family and child welfare service, and should have an understanding of child growth and development. They should be familiar with local employment practices and with the social, health, educational, and recreational resources of the community.

### Suggestions for Home Finding Publicity

In its campaign for foster homes, the Hebrew Women's Home for Children of Hartford, Connecticut, reports that they have recently been distributing leaflets explaining their need at their synagogue and temple doors. In this way they report they have reached many people whom they could not have reached in other ways. They report further that these leaflets describe their need for temporary homes specifically for a period of about two months. They felt that this would give them a group of homes in which they could place children pending more permanent plans either in foster home or institution, or return to their own family. Because they are a defense town and from time to time are called on to care for children of defense workers pending their finding living quarters, they do have additional calls on their temporary service.

However: "An interesting thing is that of the applications we got as a result of the leaflet, all but two

do want children for longer time placement. One of the two requesting children for short time placement can be used only for very temporary use or for day care over a longer period of time. The other applicant requesting a child for a short time is a young, childless couple who want to take a child or two for a short time to experience what it would mean to be foster parents before they decide whether they would want to board children for a longer period of time."

The Office of Civilian Defense released a statement on September 14 on "A Program of State Action Adopted August 28, 1942, by the Children's Bureau Commission on Children in Wartime," which sets forth concretely the various needs of children in wartime as presented in more general terms in the Children's Charter in Wartime.

As to how the program can be put into action, it is pointed out that State and local committees should review wartime needs of children and existing resources for meeting those needs and then proceed to develop services adequate to safeguard children. Possible committee functions include promotion of needed state legislation, the securing of needed funds, the strengthening of the work of agencies responsible for services to children and families, the developing of a closer co-ordination between agency programs, and, finally, assistance in recruitment and training of personnel, both professional and volunteer.

Copies of the program are available for circulation on request.

THE Thirty-third Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City, at 12:30 p.m., on Thursday, November 12. This will be followed by a Scientific Program.

### New League Members

The following agencies have recently been admitted to Accredited Membership in the Child Welfare League of America:

St. Mary's Home for Children,  
2822 W. Jackson Boulevard,  
Chicago, Illinois.  
Sister Catherine Louise, Sister Superior, C.S.M.

The Pauline Sterne Wolff Memorial Home,  
1300 Kenwood Lane,  
Houston, Texas.  
Mr. Jerome Meyer, Executive Director.



### A Program of Boarding Home Care for Parents with Children\*

THIS program was developed on a two-fold basis, housekeeper service and boarding home care. Adequate housekeeper service was provided for those families where such service would prevent the break-up of the home and keep the family intact. Where the parent was employed or for other reasons could not assume responsibility for a household and yet preferred to live in the same home with the child rather than to place it in an institution or foster home, boarding homes were provided. It was found in many instances that, for working mothers or fathers with one or two children, a boarding home was a better solution, both for the parents and for the children, than the placement of the children either in a foster home or in an institution. In 1941, 15 families, consisting of a parent with one or more children, were placed.

Requests for assistance in securing boarding homes are received directly. Since parents have become aware of the possibility of boarding home placement, they do not always require foster homes or institutional placement. One of the factors contributing to the closing of the Jewish Children's Home of Detroit, in the fall of 1940, was the growth and development of the boarding home program and the housekeeper service. It has been felt that the yearly decrease in the proportion of children placed in relation to the number of applications made, has been due to the use of alternate plans by the agency, to the attempts to keep the families together before recommending placement. In addition to the requests for boarding home placement which come directly to the agency, such a plan may be suggested, though the original request may have been for another type of service.

This service is available only to those families who are interested in moving into a home which the agency has investigated and will continue to supervise. In all instances the service is given on a case-work basis. This is explained to families before any arrangements are made, and those families who are not interested in the supervisory aspects of the service are not accepted.

Before a boarding home is selected for use, a thorough investigation is made, which includes a physical check-up of the home, history of the family, the inter-relationship of members of the family, their ability to

accept children, the financial status, and the health condition of all members. Members of the family, especially the boarding home mother, are given a clear picture of the family to be taken into their home and of the duties and responsibilities involved. The family requesting placement is encouraged to indicate its preference for the type of home desired. Often the case worker goes with the parent and the child to the homes available and then, together with the parent, decides upon the one most suitable.

When necessary, the agency supplements the budgets of the families whom we have placed in boarding homes on the basis of the Visiting Housekeepers' Association's budget, which is equivalent to a working-man's budget. Sometimes this budget must be adjusted to take into consideration special clothing needs for women employed as sales clerks or in offices where appearance is important.

The case worker sees the boarding home mother at regular intervals during the course of her contact with the family, and discusses with her those aspects of her work in which the family is involved. Where the only need seems to be help in finding the boarding home, supervision may last for a relatively short time before the case is closed, that is, supervision ceases. There is no set time for the length of supervision in a boarding home—just as there is no stipulated length of time during which a case is kept open and active. As a general rule, most of the families who are placed in boarding homes remain in those homes until the circumstances causing them to make such a plan have been altered. Most families remain in the first home in which they are placed and only a very small percentage find it necessary to move to a second boarding home because they have not been able to make a satisfactory adjustment in the first one. Of the ten families now in boarding homes, four have been in those homes for three months or less; two have been in their homes for seven months; three for nine months; one for fourteen months. The latest family to move out of a boarding home had lived in the same home for almost four and one-half years, and moved out in order to establish a home of their own.

An economic criterion is used as a basis for eligibility for boarding home service. The agency will pay completely for boarding home care if the needs of the family cannot be met in any other way and if the family has no income. If the family's income is insufficient to cover the costs of the boarding home plan, the agency will supplement the family's payment. If the family is able to pay for the service completely, it is expected to do so. The cost of

\* This program was started in 1933 by the Home Service Department of the Jewish Social Service Bureau of Detroit to help meet some hitherto unmet requests for assistance involving problems of child care.—Ed.

boarding home care is not standardized because the needs of the individual family may vary considerably. For instance, a boarding home mother may expect a few dollars more per week for caring for a two-year-old child than she would for a ten-year-old. Also, the parent may not wish to take all meals with the family or may wish additional service, such as laundry. The boarding home rate is, therefore, influenced by the needs of the family, by the prevailing rate in the community, and, to some extent, by the ability of the family to pay. In situations where the agency pays either complete cost or part of the cost, a maximum board rate is set. In those situations where the family is able to pay for the service completely, the agency suggests what it would consider a fair boarding rate, but permits the family to make final arrangements with the boarding home mother if they so desire. In all situations, attempts are made to settle the financial arrangements through a three-cornered decision between the agency, the boarding home family, and the family going into the home, because even though the agency may be paying for complete boarding home care for a family, they are doing so in the hope that the family will eventually become either partially or completely self-supporting. In such instances, the agency tries to arrive at a financial arrangement which the family may one day be able to pay. We are told that while boarding mothers in the city of Detroit had been asking \$14.00 per week for a mother and child, they are now asking between \$18.00 and \$20.00 per week.

The agency has found it quite satisfactory and economical to place either mothers or fathers and children in boarding homes rather than to assist them in maintaining separate establishments and taking in someone to care for the children during the day, particularly when there are only one or two children. The largest group receiving boarding home care consists of a family of either an employed mother or father and one child, who live in a home where parent and child both receive boarding care. Under this arrangement, the child can receive care and supervision while the parent is employed. This gives the parent an opportunity to expend energy and interest on the job through relieving her of worry about the child. Also, the parent can return to an adequate home for regular meals and other comforts.

From the League's Standards for Children's Organizations Providing Foster Family Care:

*"Effective performance of service is dependent on a staff selected and maintained on the basis of training, experience and ability."*

### Case Record Exhibit

IN THESE days of stress, when agencies are concerned with how to relieve professional staff members of responsibilities that in any way curtail the services they can give directly to the client, the question may well arise, why engage in activities for such a luxury as the case record exhibit. Agencies are already writing in to find out what is being done about recording; what modifications in process recording; how can summary recording be made inclusive enough to be helpful to the worker concerned with her day by day process; what is this new counseling service to working mothers; how are parents who want to be boarded together with their children and who can pay for such service using case work. These are some of the problems that agencies will be working with, and which the case record exhibit for 1943 will help clarify.

The demands on our current exhibit also indicate the real concern of agencies, schools, state conferences and councils of social agencies to find material which will help workers under pressure keep their vision clear, their scope broad. Thirty-six agencies have already requested the exhibit in 24 states, Hawaii, Canada and Puerto Rico; 15 of these agencies have already been served and have written of how helpful it has been to have these records.

The exhibit has been scheduled to appear at each of the League's regional conferences, for never have staffs felt greater need for every available help to strengthen the existing services to children.

We are therefore pleased to announce that Mrs. Ferebe S. Cone, Division of Child Welfare, State Department of Public Welfare, Columbia, South Carolina, has agreed to act as National Chairman for the 1943 Case Record Exhibit Committee.

### Regional Conferences of Child Welfare League of America

The Southern Regional Conference will be held November 17, 18 and 19, 1942, in Savannah, Georgia. Miss Florence van Sickler is General Chairman, Mrs. Loomis Logan Colcord, Program Chairman, and Mrs. Alvice Sharpe, Institute Chairman.

The Ohio Valley Regional Conference will be held February 20, 21, and 22, 1943, in Columbus, Ohio. Headquarters will be at the Neil House. Mr. William I. Lacy is Chairman.

N. B.: The Southwest Regional Conference has been postponed indefinitely. Tentative plans are for a conference in the spring, the date to be announced.

## Some Efforts to Meet a Critical Period in Child Placing

(Continued from page 4)

was to derive satisfaction which comes from such activity. Participation in a worth-while activity in itself fills a human need which, if satisfied, can be utilized productively. The campaign, furthermore, gave opportunity to capitalize upon the patriotic and altruistic motives which run high and gave an outlet for shared enthusiasm and service through organized effort. It also accelerated the development and participation of new workers in foster home recruiting and their performance in the campaign was on a par with that of the more experienced workers.

### Conclusions

We wish to conclude by listing, herewith, what appear to us as some of the shortcomings and weaknesses which underlie the structure of child placing and which may be responsible for many of our difficulties:

1. The mortality rate of foster homes is too high, *i. e.*, their average length of service is too short. We lose foster homes too fast; we probably give up too easily. Conservation by lengthening the life span of foster families must be more economical than replacement and more satisfactory than recruiting new homes. Improvement in this respect as far as possible would advance the stabilization of child placing.
2. The effectiveness of our home finding methods is impaired because they are directed at the unresponsive sections of the community. A relatively small proportion of applications—not over twenty percent in our experience—materialized into usable foster homes. A determined effort to reach more natural and productive sources should go a long way toward a solution of our recruiting problem.
3. The case work emphasis in child placing, it seems to us, is misplaced. If instead of concentrating on child supervision we gave more of our time and skill to the development of competence and responsibility of foster parents, we might accomplish a double purpose, namely: prolong the life of foster families and have more time for foster home recruiting and selection.
4. The status of foster parents is unsatisfactory; it is too vague and uncertain in the eyes of the community, neighbors and friends and in the minds of the foster parents themselves. To cover up their embarrassment and inadequacy in this respect agencies resort to platitudes, sugar coating, and sentimental camouflage. What is the status of the foster parent in our eyes? Is it that of client, employee, philanthropist, business man or what? It would help a great deal if we could define and establish that status on a firm basis of performance, dignity, recognition and reward.
5. Compensation or board rate has little if any realistic relationship to budgetary requirements of the child, the living standards of the foster family, the time element involved in the care of a child or the competence of foster parents. Altruism, emotional satisfaction, agency budget and established practice determine the going rate of board. But we believe that they are inadequate to meet present-day conditions and that a fresh approach to the problem is overdue. We do not mean a flat increase in board rate; that in our opinion is not the answer.
6. Our intake is frequently determined by a naivete and sentimental disposition. All too readily do we accept for placement not alone difficult children who require patient and skillful re-education, but children who have been given up by others—psychiatry, family and medical social workers—as untreatable or extremely doubtful. These children require custodial or semi-custodial care

for their and society's protection, but they do not fall within the accepted categories of the feeble minded, delinquent, etc., for the purpose of commitment. Their placement means the destruction of many good if innocent foster families and a sense of frustration on the part of helpless and often unsophisticated child placing workers. The remedy for these children and for the child placing agencies as well lies in state custodial facilities even if that should involve the creation of a new category.

However, as long as these and other shortcomings exist, and until they are recognized and remedied, it will be necessary to continue with the home finding methods and devices already known to us at the same time that we are trying out new and more promising ways of finding foster homes. This is plain common sense which applies with particular force in uncertain times like the present. Undoubtedly conditions vary in different communities and different methods and approaches are required to meet local situations. But by and large the same fundamental principles, characteristics and weaknesses prevail and the same basic changes are indicated in child placing work everywhere.

## Supervision of Foster Homes

(Continued from page 7)

way their life would be. This group of foster parents had no experienced agency to help them with preparation, selection of the child, support and interpretation. It is all the evidence we need to prove that child placing is more than following an impulse, more than an amateur's prerogative, and more than sentiment or a patriotic duty. Furthermore, many of these foster parents who should not have gone into the experience for reasons of their own health and well-being did so. Some were even advised that taking a refugee child would be a good antidote for illness, boredom or unhappiness. The consequences of this were heavy for both the child and the foster parent. Out of our own experience, and later as confirmed by the British experience with evacuation, we have re-learned that children and foster parents both have to be safeguarded if child placing is to be beneficial all around.

Years of experience have shown that caring for a foster child is different from caring for your own child. One does not have long years of familiarity in which to get used to the child gradually, nor does one have the security of blood-ties nor the assurance of ownership (legal and psychological). The love of the own child for themselves is taken for granted by parents. The love of the foster child has to be won and waited for often against his will and that of his parents. The own child comes as a baby first, unfinished and waiting to be developed. The foster child (except in adoption where he is placed as a



baby) is likely to be already formed in character and comes with a full-blown set of habits that someone else gave him. It is for reasons such as these that foster parents need support and help. The refugee child, notwithstanding his need, appeal and courage, was discovered to be, after all, a child first. He brought with him not only experiences dramatic and traumatic in color, but also what those experiences had done to him and with which foster parents had to live. It was not only his fears of sudden noise, his night-terrors, and his concern with blackouts, but some of the more humdrum problems that foster parents were confronted with—bed-wetting, measles, different food-habits, aloofness, criticism of new ways of caring for him, homesickness, lack of appreciation and independence, to mention only a few. Calling them "guest-children" meant that many foster parents felt for a long time that they could not exert the same authority over them that they could with their own children. This was a psychological hardship for the children and a handicap for the foster parents.

The placement of refugee children has given us a confirmation and a re-affirmation as to all the old methods learned from child placing in peacetimes. It has further brought opportunities to demonstrate the value of these to a public for whom the refugee child was more colorful than the ordinary dependent American child. Finally it has brought a new conviction that child placing is a professional job calling for trained and experienced workers and that this is essential if both children and foster parents are to be protected.

### Available for Circulation to League Members, Affiliates and Associates

FOSTER DAY CARE, Based on Two Years' Experience of Montclair Day Nursery, Katharine DeW. Phelps, May, 1942.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN DANGER ZONES, Martha M. Eliot, M.D., and Katherine Bain, M.D., *The Child*, July, 1942. (First part of paper presented at Eighth Pan American Child Congress).

PLANNING FOR CARE OF CHILDREN AFTER EVACUATION, Martha M. Eliot, M.D., and Katherine Bain, M.D., *The Child*, September, 1942. (Second part of paper presented at Eighth Pan American Child Congress).

CHILDREN'S REACTIONS TO THE WAR, Lauretta Bender and John Frosch, *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, October, 1942.

PSYCHIATRIC CARE OF CHILDREN IN WARTIME, Elisabeth R. Geleerd, *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, October, 1942.

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOSTER-PARENT EDUCATION, Lois Wildy, *Social Service Review*, September, 1942. Reprints are available at 10c each.

Scrapbook on "Program of a Children's Institution," prepared by Milwaukee Orphans' Asylum.

Scrapbook on "Foster Parent Education," prepared by the Ohio Committee on Child Placing.

### BOOK NOTES

CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION SUPPLEMENT, Child Welfare League of America, 1942, 40 pp. 25 cents.

The Child Care and Protection Supplement, issued by the Child Welfare League of America, April, 1942, deserves the careful attention of all students and seasoned practitioners in the field of social work. In these times of sudden change it is increasingly necessary for us to feel beneath our feet the solid ground of confidence in our contribution to social welfare. It is easy now to be diverted into spectacular efforts, and more difficult to stay steadily at known responsibilities. The nine writers who contributed articles to this Supplement have shown this steadiness and have added to our interest in and respect for our own profession.

The statement by Miss Lenroot on the first page suggests the central theme of the articles. She writes: "Every child welfare worker who helps parents, teachers, judges, and recreation leaders to see that children are saved from neglect and delinquency is giving a service which is supremely important in time of war." The content describes social case work as an essential service in furthering the purpose of foster homes, institutions, the day nursery, protective agencies, and the Children's Court. It is specific enough to illuminate more general descriptions of the functions of child welfare workers. It is only as we describe and define *what* we actually do and *how* we do it that function and process come alive. For interpretation of the value of social case work we need, too, these *specific* illustrations which are more readily understood and better remembered by the layman than are broad generalizations.

This series of articles is written for the most part by case workers. There is only one article each by a supervisor, an executive secretary, and two superintendents. Many administrators would feel encouraged by a staff interested in studying its homes and facing its home finding problems as was the staff described in Miss Camp's article. It is heartening to know that some case workers find time, in addition to giving direct services, for the study, evaluation and sharing of their practice through publication. Perhaps some other case workers have seen their responsibilities too narrowly and failed to realize that concentration on direct service only may cause practice to become static and to end in a disservice to their clients. Practice which is dynamic calls for constant study and evaluation.

Some of these articles upset our former generalizations and challenge all of us, whether we agree with them or not, to turn the searchlight on our present

work. We are often unaware that present policies and practices express knowledge of the past which has become "frozen." The knowledge of the present has difficulty in mingling freely in this congealed structure. We are indebted to the BULLETIN for presenting, as the editor expresses it, these "discussions of present principles, practices, and processes in child care and protection."

—RUTH M. GARTLAND

*Professor of Social Case Work,  
School of Applied Social Sciences, University of Pittsburgh*

THE FAMILY IN A WORLD AT WAR. Edited by Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg, Harper and Bros., N. Y. 1942. \$2.50.

The family is always a timely topic for writers, social scientists, psychologists, ministers and social workers. It is an absorbing topic to most of us, and our intimate personal experience with family life heightens our interest in any intelligent discussion of the subject. Our concern and anxiety over the family have been as sustained and genuine, and as a rule as inconsistent, as over any other single human institution. And on no other subject, perhaps, have we been more articulate and done less.

But all this is not the subject matter of the *Family in a World at War*. Its twenty authors—ten men and ten women—are primarily concerned with the adaptation of the family and its members—the father is left out—to the current war and its aftermath. They deal with different aspects of the problem of adaptation and together they succeed in presenting a rather comprehensive picture of the contemporary American scene and its effect upon the family. In some instances they are able to offer specific solutions and remedies for the more glaring and obvious weak spots and deficiencies. As has been indicated, the book is a collection of twenty papers by as many contributors from the fields of literature, education, psychology, social welfare, public administration, etc. It is edited by Sidonie M. Gruenberg and sponsored by the Board and staff of the Child Study Association of America. The editor, in addition to a foreword, quite appropriately leads off with an introductory article as a general background and key to the subject. Paul V. McNutt follows with a graphic account of people uprooted and of life in a defense boom town. His solution lies in an extension and broadening of social security coverage and additional protective measures by government. Anna M. Rosenberg, in her article on Social Security and the National Purpose, comes to the same conclusion. Dr. Thomas T. Mackie and Louise Stanley stress the importance of adequate nutrition in connection with

public morale. Dr. Mackie brings us up to date on the modern scientific concept of nutrition and warns us that vitamins alone, calories alone, etc., will not do; that a complete adequate diet is necessary for normal health. While Stanley reminds us that the nutrition of one-third of our population is below the safety line.

Lawrence K. Frank writes in a pessimistic and alarming vein about the future of the family. His solution consists of a more comprehensive and better co-ordinated social security program coupled with a deliberately planned form of public recognition of family life. Professor Edward C. Lindeman lists various effects of war on the morale of the family which must inevitably spread over the whole nation. Mark A. McClosky, director of Office of Defense, Health and Welfare Services, gives a lively and cheerful description of the ways in which we meet the many problems of men in the armed forces and of defense workers. Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, maintains that separation for national defense does not necessarily mean disruption of family life.

Dr. David M. Levy explores and analyzes the anatomy and physiology of hate and intolerance and their dangerous epidemic character. Everett R. Clinchy follows with advice that the family should be made "hate virus" conscious.

Pearl S. Buck advocates a world outlook in family living and in the rearing of children. Dr. James S. Plant poses six questions pertaining to the education and guidance of the child now and after the war.

Susan Isaacs' article, "Children of Great Britain in Wartime," should prove most suggestive and stimulating to social workers in general and to child care workers in particular. She describes vividly and penetratingly the evacuation experience in England. Both Isaacs and Eliot stress the importance of well-trained social workers in connection with social services for children.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher and Anna W. M. Wolf deal with the problem of volunteer work by women.

The last three articles by Caroline B. Zachry, Eleanor R. Roosevelt and Howard Y. McClosky deal with adolescents and youth.

The book contains little if any new material to the informed reader and few of the questions raised and solutions suggested therein are original. It, nevertheless, is an interesting and valuable volume because of the intelligent and sincere way in which twenty prominent, earnest people present their respective points of view on a vital subject.

—JACOB KEPECS

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